

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/989,670

Examiner

Sara Chandler

Applicant(s)

PARASIRAKIS ET AL.

Art Unit

3693

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/26/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 28-43 and 48-50.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This Office Action is responsive to Applicant's arguments and request for reconsideration of application 09/989,670 (11/21/01) filed on 10/26/07.

Status of Claims

Claims 28-30, 36-38, 41 and 48-50 are currently amended. Claims 31-35, 39-40, 42-43 were previously presented. Claims 1-27, 45-47 are cancelled. Claim 44 was not entered. Thus, claims 28-43 and 48-50 are currently pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 28-43 and 48-50 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record is Rime, US Pub. No. 2002/0128919.

Although Rime is similar to the instant application in some respects, there are clear patentable distinctions.

Rime teaches an order processing system and method. In Rime, an order has a plurality of fields associated with it. Rime teaches that a chain of gateways identifies a sequence in which the gateways are configured to process the order. In Rime, for example, a first gateway is adapted to process a first set of one or more fields of the order and a second gateway is adapted to process a second set of one or more fields of the order. The gateways in Rime can be configured for sequential or parallel processing of the order. The split or distribution of the order among different gateways can be seen as an efficiency or workflow

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measure. For example, a business could split or distribute the order for processing by different departments such as packaging, shipping and billing.

The claimed invention is also drawn to a method, system and computer program product for processing an order. The claimed invention is distinct from Rime in a few ways. First, the claimed invention requires the creation of an order structure for the order from a user. Second, the order structure is formed by creating a plurality of objects for order related inputs received from the user. The plurality of objects include an object of a first type identifying the item(s) ordered by the user and objects of a second type identifying alternative mechanisms for processing the order and delivery requirements for the item(s) ordered. Third, the order processing is tied to the order structure because the orders are processed in accordance with the alternative mechanisms for processing identified when the order structure was created. For example, a buyer can purchase multiple items as part of an order. Different parts of the order can be shipped to alternative locations (e.g., California vs. New York), paid for using alternative forms of payment (e.g., Visa vs. Mastercard, Cash vs. Credit) etc. and these relationships can occur independent of one another.

Claim 28 is allowed because the best prior art of record, Rime, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest or otherwise make obvious, all the limitations of a method for processing an order based on order-related inputs from an ordering user, comprising the steps of:

creating an order-related structure for an order from the user, including:

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creating a plurality of order-related objects based on a plurality of order-related inputs obtained from the user, the plurality of order related objects including

*an object of a first type representing one or more units of one or more items ordered by the user; and
a plurality of objects of a second type representing different alternative mechanisms to process a first requirement of the order necessary to complete ordering and delivering of the one or more units of one or more items;*

establishing a first relationship between the object of a first type and a first of the plurality of objects of a second type; and

establishing a second relationship between the object of a first type and a second of the plurality of objects of a second type,

wherein the first relationship indicates that the first asp~ requirement of a first portion of the one or more units will be processed by the alternative mechanism represented by the first of the plurality of objects of a second type, and the second relationship indicates that the first asp~ requirement of a second portion of the one or more units will be processed by the alternative mechanism represented by the second of the plurality of objects of a second type, and

wherein the first portion is determined by a property of the first relationship as defined based on said order-related inputs from the user, independent of the object of a first type or the first of the plurality of objects of a second type, and the second portion is determined by a property of the second relationship as defined based on said order-related inputs from the user, independent of the object of a first type or the second of the plurality of objects of a second type;

processing the order based on the order-related structure by providing a result identifying the first portion of the one or more units to be processed by the alternative mechanism represented by the first of the plurality of objects of a second type, and identifying the second portion of the one or more units to be processed by the alternative mechanism represented by the second of the plurality of objects of a second type.

Independent claims 48,49 and 50 are allowable based on a similar rationale. Dependent claims 29-43 are allowable based on the same rationale as the claims from which they depend.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should

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preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

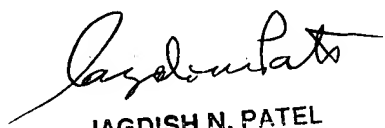
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sara Chandler whose telephone number is 571-272-1186. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Kramer can be reached on 571-272-6783. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SC
SMC

 11/5/07
JAGDISH N. PATEL
PRIMARY EXAMINER